



DEVELOPMENT OF A 'SINGLE INTERFACE' FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN PERTH & KINROSS

STRATEGIC FIT

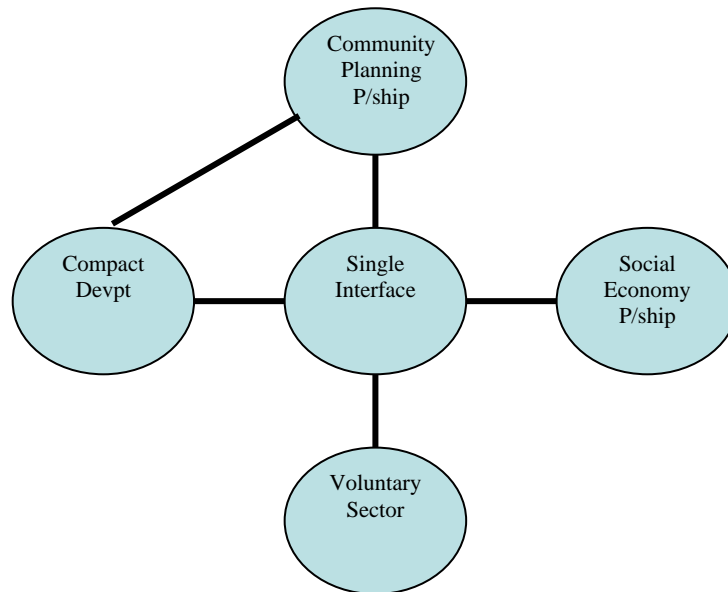
The voluntary sector has had a strong relationship with the Community Planning Partnership in Perth & Kinross since 2001. The Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), enabled and supported by Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service (PKAVS), has represented the interests of the voluntary sector from the beginning. The Volunteer Centre (VC) is also well established as a partner at strategic level and with local practitioner groups within that framework.

There are now established and vibrant networks of voluntary organisations that engage with the Community Planning process through their interface with CVS & VC. This applies to both urban and rural services. CVS and VC support to the sector shares best practice, up-skilling individuals and builds community capacity.

In 2004 a 'Compact for Health' was produced as an understanding between the voluntary sector and local health provider NHS Tayside. This is now being widened in its application and will bring together all partners of the Community Planning Partnership.

CVS have been a partner with the Local Social Economy Partnership (LSEP) since 2004. We have actively encouraged and supported local voluntary organisations to diversify into Social Enterprise.

The diagram below depicts our strategic fit with these elements.



LOCALISM CURRENTLY IN PERTH & KINROSS

- CVS and VC are currently 'projects' within PKAVS and, as such, already have the same Board of Governors and lead officer. PKAVS currently provides management services to the CVS, VC and seven other projects.
- The CVS and VC perform complementary roles in supporting the local sector: the CVS carries out both "business support" and representative roles, while the VC provides and supports volunteers to work at all levels of an organisation, as well as offering advice and communicating best practice to organisations managing volunteers.
- The CVS and VC have operated an informal cross-referral system in terms of client support, whenever appropriate.
- The CVS and VC have jointly organised eight very successful conferences for the local sector in the past seven years.
- The CVS work includes assisting people: to set up organisations and to become constituted under an appropriate legal structure; to source funding for their organisations; to develop appropriate business structures, including policies and procedures; to manage projects and prepare business plans, etc; and to take part in the processes of Community Planning and other partnerships.
- VC also works with individuals in matching their skills to appropriate volunteering roles, ensuring that organisations have volunteers to support their work. More intensive support is provided to individuals with additional needs who wish to become involved in volunteering-this promotes and assists in their social inclusion and networking.

NEXT STEPS

- A new single interface for Perth & Kinross will come into force in April 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible. The names "CVS Perth & Kinross" and "Volunteer Centre Perth & Kinross" and their respective logos will be replaced by a new name and logo. PKAVS will also carry out a rebranding exercise and together they will comprise the "single interface" in Perth & Kinross. As a result, there will be no need to alter existing arrangements to shared services.
- Structural, constitutional and governance changes of PKAVS will be explored and discussed with key stakeholders.
- Relationships with Community Planning and other partners will remain firmly in place, as will support services for voluntary organisations and community groups.
- Office space within The Gateway (PKAVS premises) will be re-organised to facilitate closer working practices.
- We shall seek direct funding as from April 2009.
- That first operating year will enable problems to be resolved and any necessary structural amendments to be made for future development.

SUMMARY

Existing relationships for collaborative working and voluntary sector engagement with Community Planning are fundamentally strong, having been shaped over the last 8 years. The development of a 'single interface' is an opportunity to provide an enhanced service to the voluntary sector locally.

Although some restructuring will be required within the current PKAVS establishment, the disruption to external services and partnerships will be minimal. This is preferable to the introduction of a completely new collaboration of intermediary bodies which could take some time to settle into new working arrangements.

